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Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 9 December 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and has the honour to transmit herewith information on recent activities of Poland that support the aims and objectives of the resolution (see annex). The Mission kindly asks for distribution of this information on the website of the Committee.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 9 December 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Poland to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

Report of Poland on its activity related to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

Recognizing the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Poland recently undertook several initiatives that are related to and support the aims and objectives of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

I. National implementation

Decree No. 36 of the Prime Minister of 3 April 2008 established an advisory body for the Council of Ministers: the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the implementation of the Proliferation Security Initiative.

The Committee is chaired by the Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and consists of experts from the following:

- Chancellery of the Prime Minister
- Ministry of Economy (export control)
- Ministry of Finance/Customs Service
- Ministry of Infrastructure (transport safety and security)
- Ministry of Interior and Administration (Crisis Management)
- Ministry of National Defence
- Government Centre for Security
- Foreign Intelligence Agency
- Internal Security Agency
- Military Intelligence Service
- Military Counterintelligence Service
- National Atomic Energy Agency
- Police Headquarters
- Border Guard Headquarters
- Chief Inspector of Finance Information
- General Prosecutor's Office

The Committee tasks are as follows:

1. To define the policy of Poland in the sphere of the prevention of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, related materials and dual-use goods;

2. To provide the Council of Ministers with proposals of actions to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to enhance national capabilities in this regard;

3. To analyse proliferation trends, challenges and threats; to inform, educate and raise awareness in academia and industry on proliferation issues;

4. To analyse legal acts and to propose new legal regulations against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction when necessary;

5. To organize conferences, seminars, workshops and exercises aimed at strengthening national cooperation and coordination against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

II. Regional Seminar on the Nuclear Security Summit Warsaw, 30 August 2010

In April 2010 the United States of America hosted a landmark Nuclear Security Summit. Forty-seven States agreed on the need to secure nuclear materials and prevent nuclear smuggling. The Nuclear Security Summit communiqué also encouraged all participants to promote the strengthening of global nuclear security through dialogue and international cooperation.

As a response to that call, Poland hosted, on 30 August 2010, a regional seminar for Central and Eastern European countries on Nuclear Security Summit outcomes. The event served as an opportunity to sum up the discussions conducted at the Summit and facilitated the exchange of ideas and information on nuclear security-related issues from a regional perspective.

Participants from 14 countries of the region (Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine) took part in the seminar.

III. Removal of highly enriched uranium

In October 2010 more than 450 kilograms of Russian-origin highly enriched uranium spent fuel was removed from Poland within the framework of the Global Threat Reduction Initiative, with the close cooperation of Poland, the Russian Federation and the United States.

In order to facilitate the implementation of this project, an inter-ministerial task force was established in October 2007. The body consists of six government agencies, as follows:

- National Atomic Energy Agency (chair)
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Economy

– Ministry of Foreign Affairs

– Ministry of Infrastructure

– Ministry of Treasury

The task force cooperates at the expert level. It maintains contacts with counterparts from the Russian Federation and the United States, which coordinate operations carried out under the Initiative. It prepares necessary agreements and arrangements and monitors the exportation of spent nuclear fuel.

IV. Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons table-top exercise on the preparedness of States parties to prevent terrorist attacks

On 22 and 23 November 2010, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland hosted, in cooperation with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) a table-top exercise on the preparedness of States to prevent terrorist attacks involving chemicals.

The exercise was conducted under the Council of the European Union decision of 27 July 2009 on support for OPCW activities in the framework of the implementation of the European Union Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

The overall objective of the exercise was to contribute to the development of national capabilities of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction — whose economies are developing or in transition — to respond in case of a terrorist attack with chemicals and to reduce the risks of possible terrorist access to materials, equipment and knowledge that could be used in a terrorist attack on chemical plants.

The two-day event gathered over 160 participants from Albania, Algeria, Australia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Croatia, Cuba, Germany, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Mexico, Montenegro, Poland, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine, the United States and the United Arab Emirates. Representatives of various international organizations (the European Commission, EUROPOL, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and a number of United Nations entities, including the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute as well as international research institutions (the Stockholm International Peace Research and Institute) and non-governmental organizations (VERTIC)) also participated in the event.